

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 currently are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. No new matter is introduced by the present amendments.

On page 2 of the final Office Action, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. More particularly, the Examiner asserts that the term “internal” as set forth in the recitation “internal delay” renders claim 5 indefinite. While it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand with sufficient clarity the meaning of the term “internal,” especially when read in light of the specification, Applicant has amended claim 5 to delete the term objected to by the Examiner and broaden the claim in some respects. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 fully complies with Section 112, second paragraph.

Next, pages 2 to 4 include a rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tetelbaum (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0050497). Insofar as the Office may consider this rejection to apply to claim 1, as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Amended claim 1 recites, among other features, that at least the first step for determining a number of clocks different in delay amount, which are used for verification of a circuit design of the semiconductor integrated circuit upon the circuit design thereof, and determining delays in the clocks on the basis of pre-set conditions for constraints of timings, and the second step for allocating clocks supplied to respective circuits are performed prior to a layout design of the semiconductor integrated circuit. It is respectfully submitted that the parts of Tetelbaum relied upon appear to describe considering cell placement on the die when determining a number of clocks different in delay amount and determining delays in the clocks on the basis of pre-set conditions for constraint of timings. Hence, the applied Tetelbaum document does not appear to describe the subject matter presently set forth in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Tetelbaum does not appear to anticipate claim 1, and therefore also claims 2-5 depending therefrom.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable. Prompt notification of allowance, therefore, is requested. If the Examiner believes any residual issues remain that could be resolved by way of a conference, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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